

ARE YOU IN THE RIGHT CHURCH?

Weylan Deaver

According to one religious encyclopedia, there are over 2,600 denominational groups in the U.S. and Canada. These groups are distinguished by beliefs, practices, creeds, confessions, and names that differ from each other. This modern denominational approach stands in stark contrast to the concept Jesus set forth when he promised, "on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). The Lord promised to build only one church. His blood was given to purchase that church (Acts 20:28). That church is also called Jesus' body, and it is that body which he will save (Ephesians 5:23). How can that church be located? By studying the characteristics of God's people in the New Testament and then finding a church which has the same identifying marks today. After all, God's word is seed (Luke 8:11) designed to produce exactly what he wants. God did write the Bible to be understood, not undervalued. And, with all the warnings God has given against tampering with his word (e.g. Matthew 15:9, 13; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18-19), we all should have keen interest in believing and practicing only what God wrote in the New Testament. The staggering implication of this fact is that denominations need to vanish. All of them. If religious creeds, church manuals and catechisms teach anything different from the New Testament, then they are in error. If they teach what the New Testament teaches, then they are superfluous. In either case, they should be done away with. Clinging to separate and peculiar creeds is what allows denominations to persist. If such were to be abandoned and the Scriptures embraced exclusively, what would be the result? Come visit us at the Sherman Drive church of Christ, where the plea for primitive Christianity is still alive and well!

